

# Medical physics for particle therapy

Marco Durante

BNL, July 23, 2014



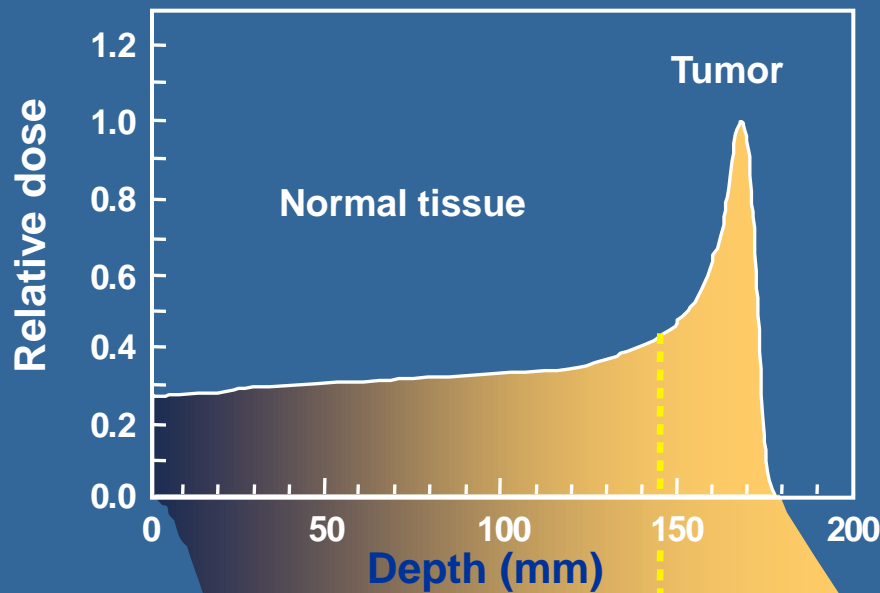
TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DARMSTADT



FIAS Frankfurt Institute  
for Advanced Studies



Durante & Loeffler,  
*Nature Rev Clin Oncol* 2010



### Potential advantages

Energy	high	low
LET	low	high
Dose	low	high
RBE	$\approx 1$	$> 1$
OER	$\approx 3$	$< 3$
Cell-cycle dependence	high	low
Fractionation dependence	high	low
Angiogenesis	Increased	Decreased
Cell migration	Increased	Decreased

High tumor dose, normal tissue sparing

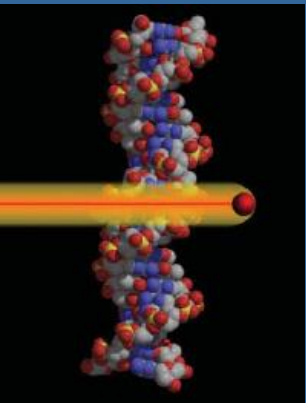
Effective for radioresistant tumors

Effective against hypoxic tumor cells

Increased lethality in the target because cells in radioresistant (S) phase are sensitized

Fractionation spares normal tissue more than tumor

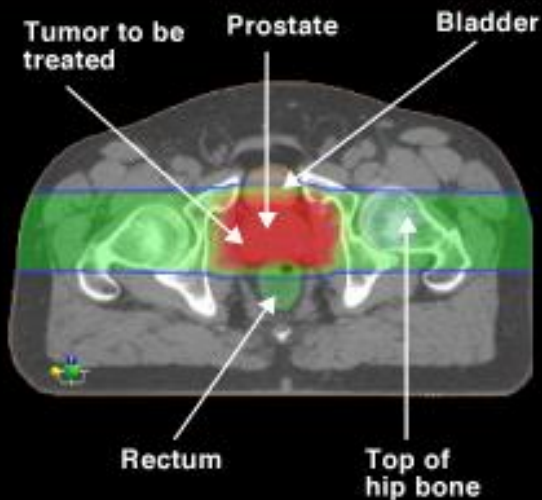
Reduced angiogenesis and metastatization



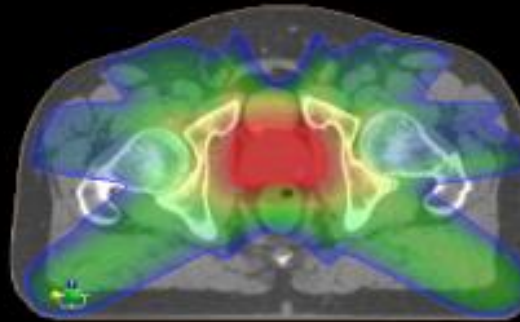
# Treatment plans with protons: prostate

Proton Therapy Achieves Better Conformation to the Tumor *and* Minimizes the Dose to Healthy Tissue

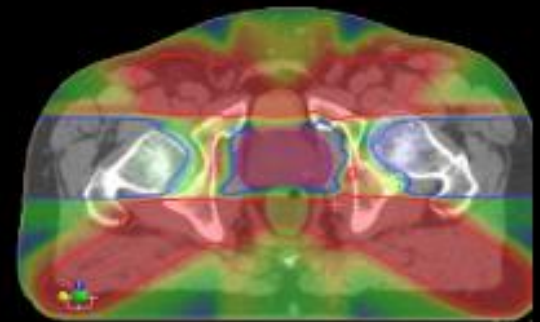
**Protons**



**X-rays/IMRT**



**Extra radiation delivered to healthy tissue with IMRT**

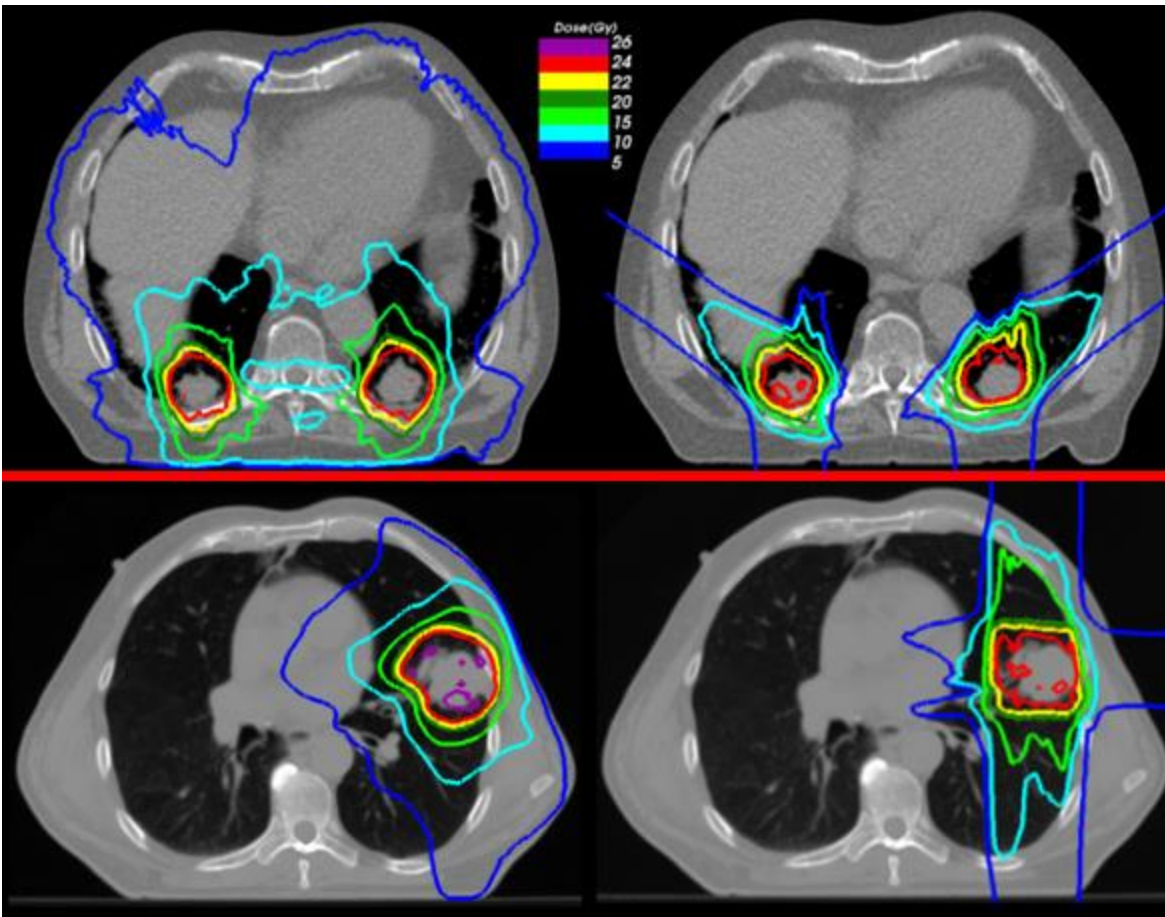


# In silico trials

## Charged particles vs. SBRT

X-rays

Carbon

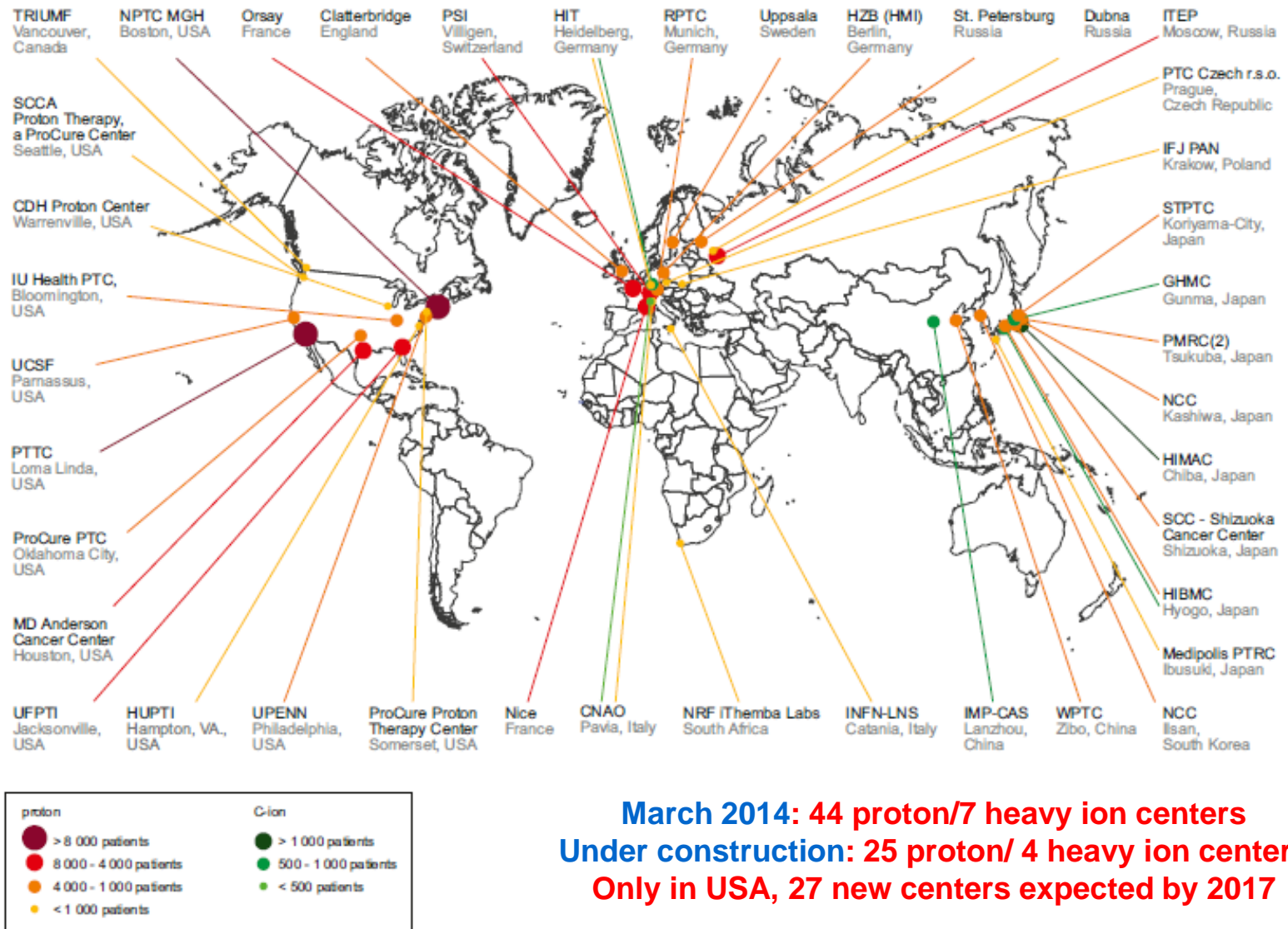


- Patients treated at Champalimaud Foundation, Lisbon (TrueBeam)
- 24 Gy single fx SBRT

In silico trial  
MSKCC/Champalimaud/  
GSI

Christian Anderle, TU  
Darmstadt, Ph.D. thesis



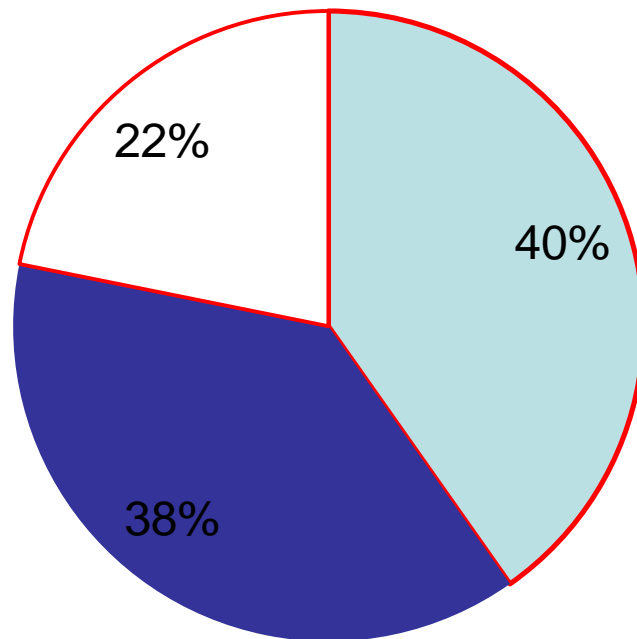


**March 2014: 44 proton/7 heavy ion centers**  
**Under construction: 25 proton/ 4 heavy ion centers**  
**Only in USA, 27 new centers expected by 2017**

# AAPM poll, August 2012



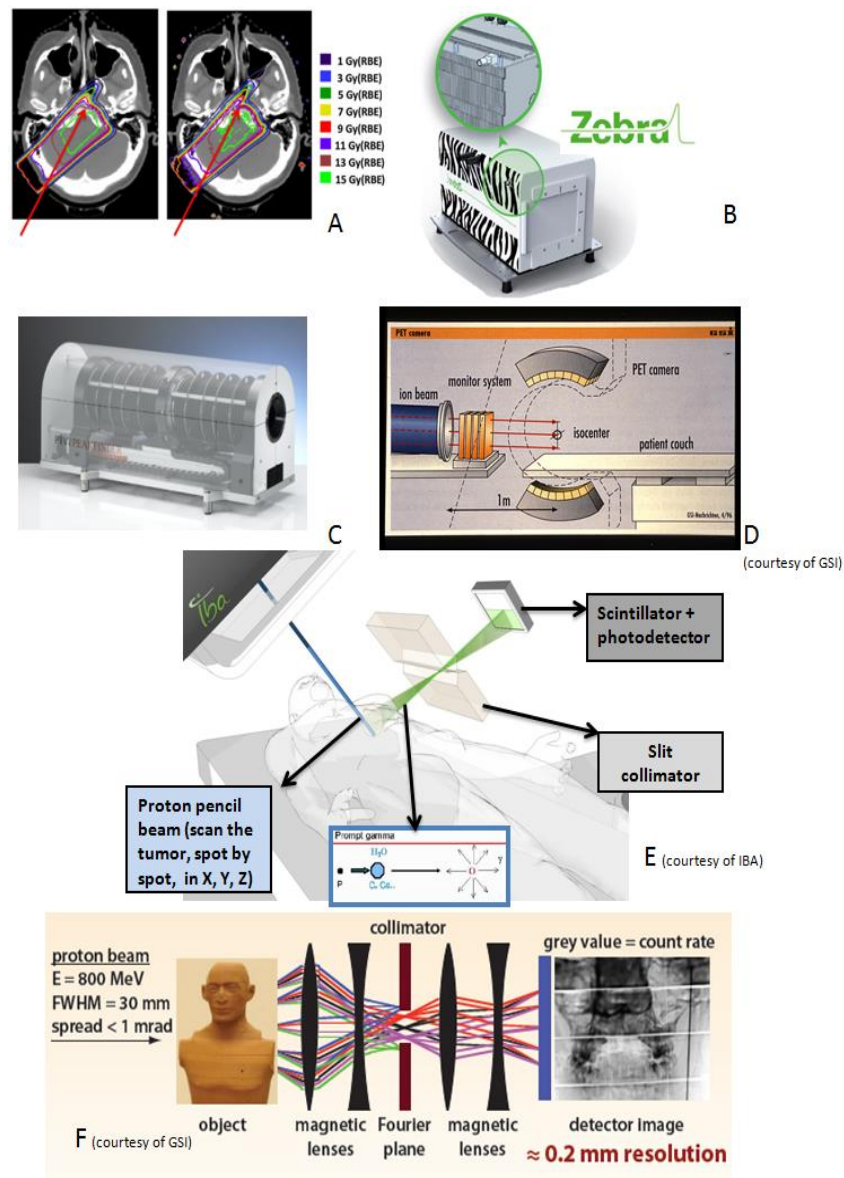
**What is the main obstacle to proton therapy replacing X-rays?**



- ☐ Cost/benefit ratio
- ☐ Range uncertainties
- ☐ Protons will never replace X-rays

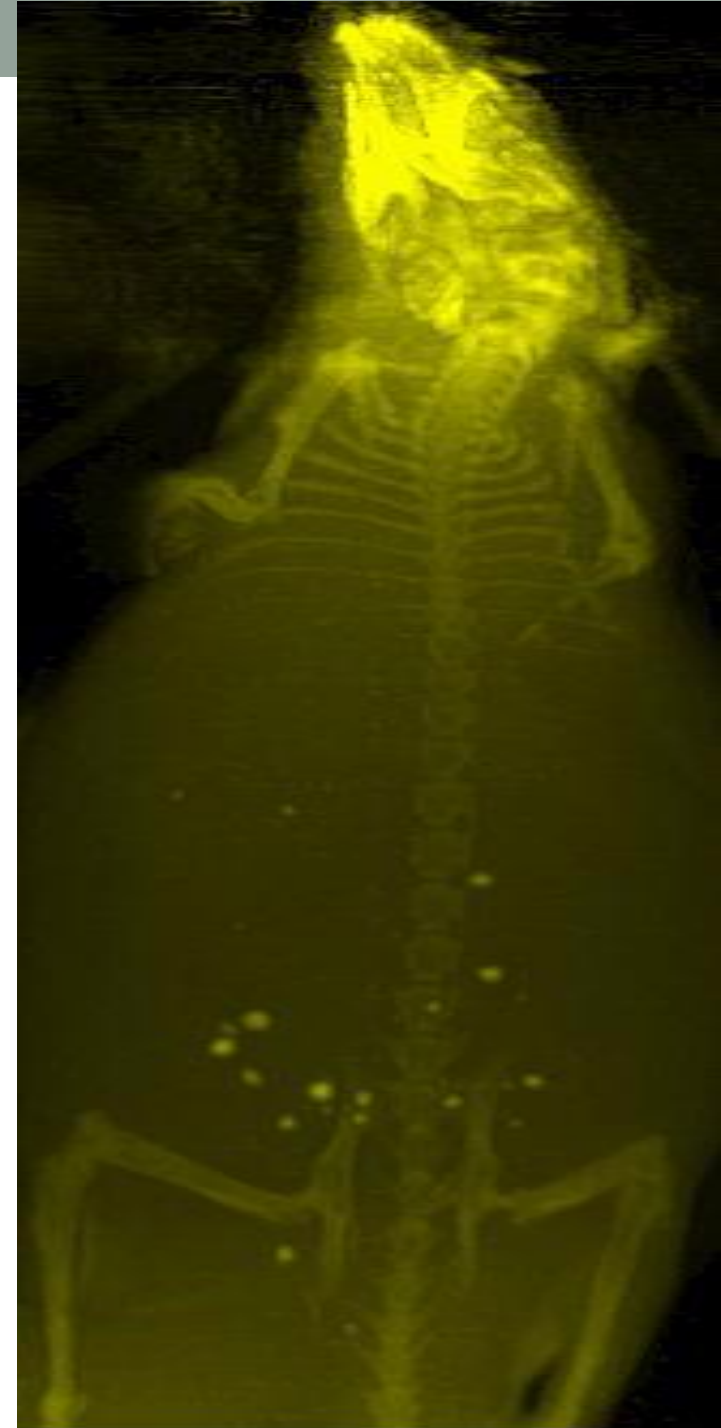
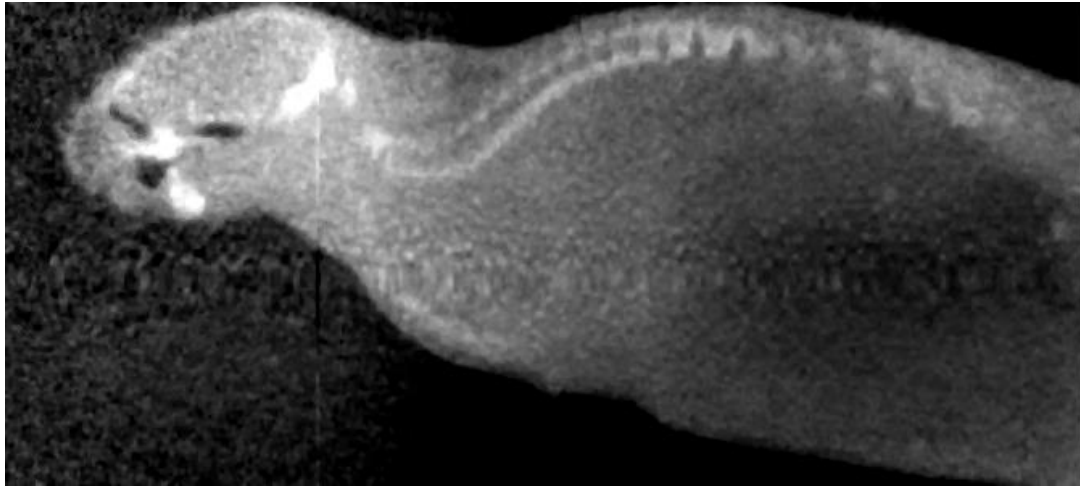
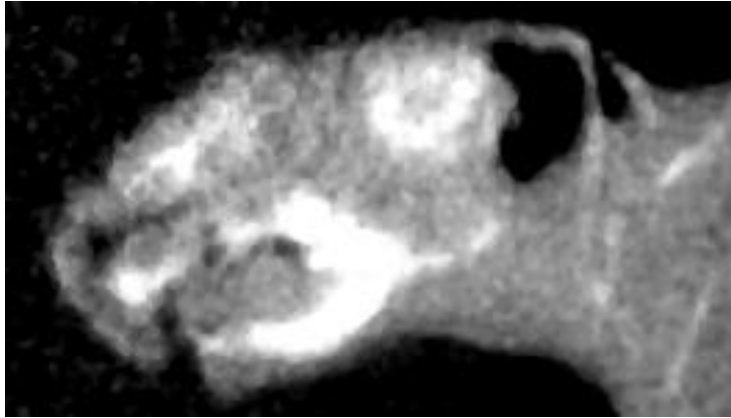
# 1. Range verification

Source of range uncertainty in the patient	Range uncertainty
<b>Independent of dose calculation:</b>	
Measurement uncertainty in water for commissioning	$\pm 0.3$ mm
Compensator design	$\pm 0.2$ mm
Beam reproducibility	$\pm 0.2$ mm
Patient setup	$\pm 0.7$ mm
<b>Dose calculation:</b>	
Biology (always positive)	+ 0.8 %
CT imaging and calibration	$\pm 0.5$ %
CT conversion to tissue (excluding I-values)	$\pm 0.5$ %
CT grid size	$\pm 0.3$ %
Mean excitation energies (I-values) in tissue	$\pm 1.5$ %
Range degradation; complex inhomogeneities	- 0.7 %
Range degradation; local lateral inhomogeneities *	$\pm 2.5$ %
<b>Total (excluding *)</b>	<b>2.7% + 1.2 mm</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.6% + 1.2 mm</b>



# Mouse Proton Tomography

800 MeV proton beam at LANL



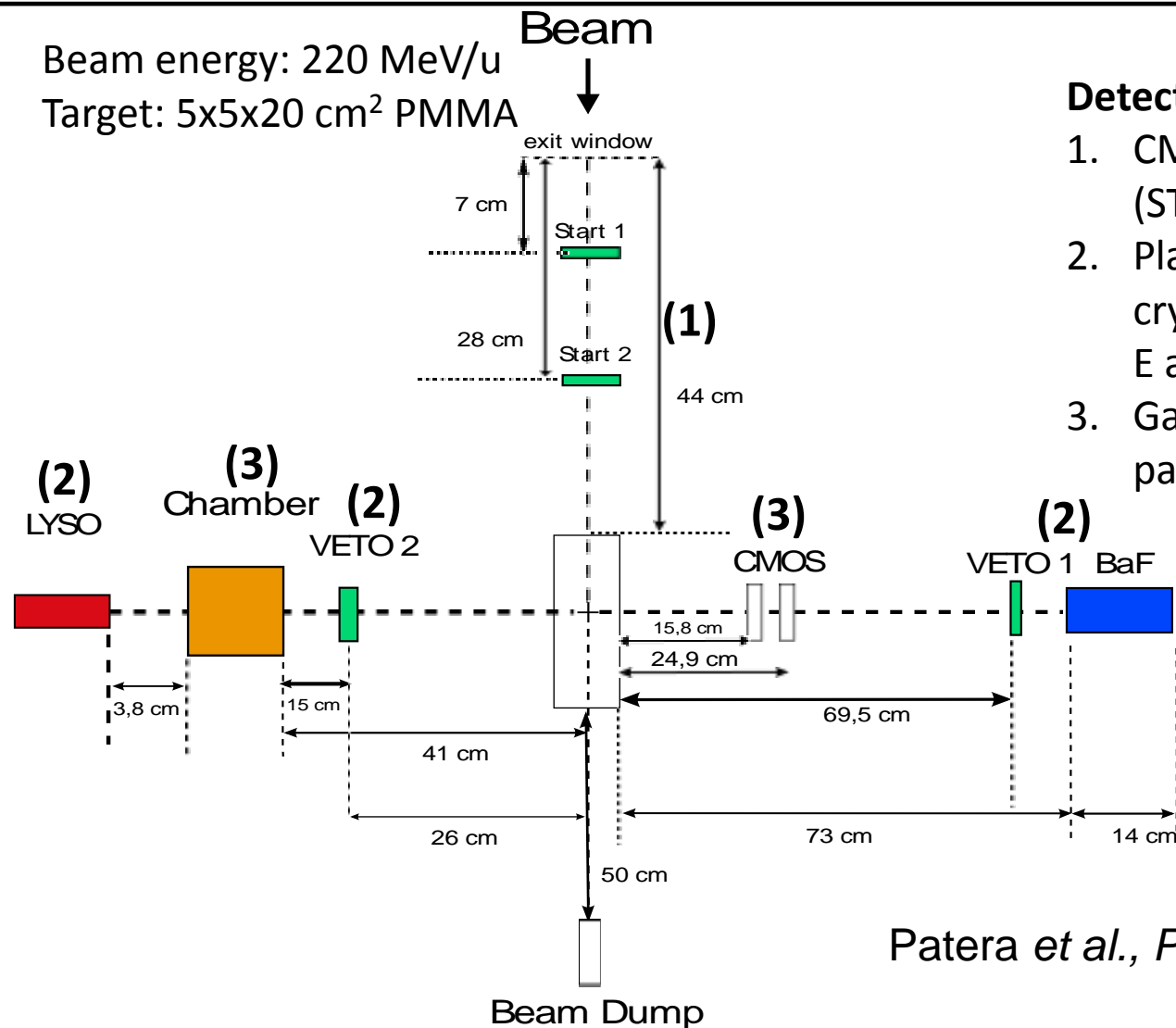


# Real time monitoring of the Bragg Peak position during a treatment with $^{12}\text{C}$ beam

## Rationale:

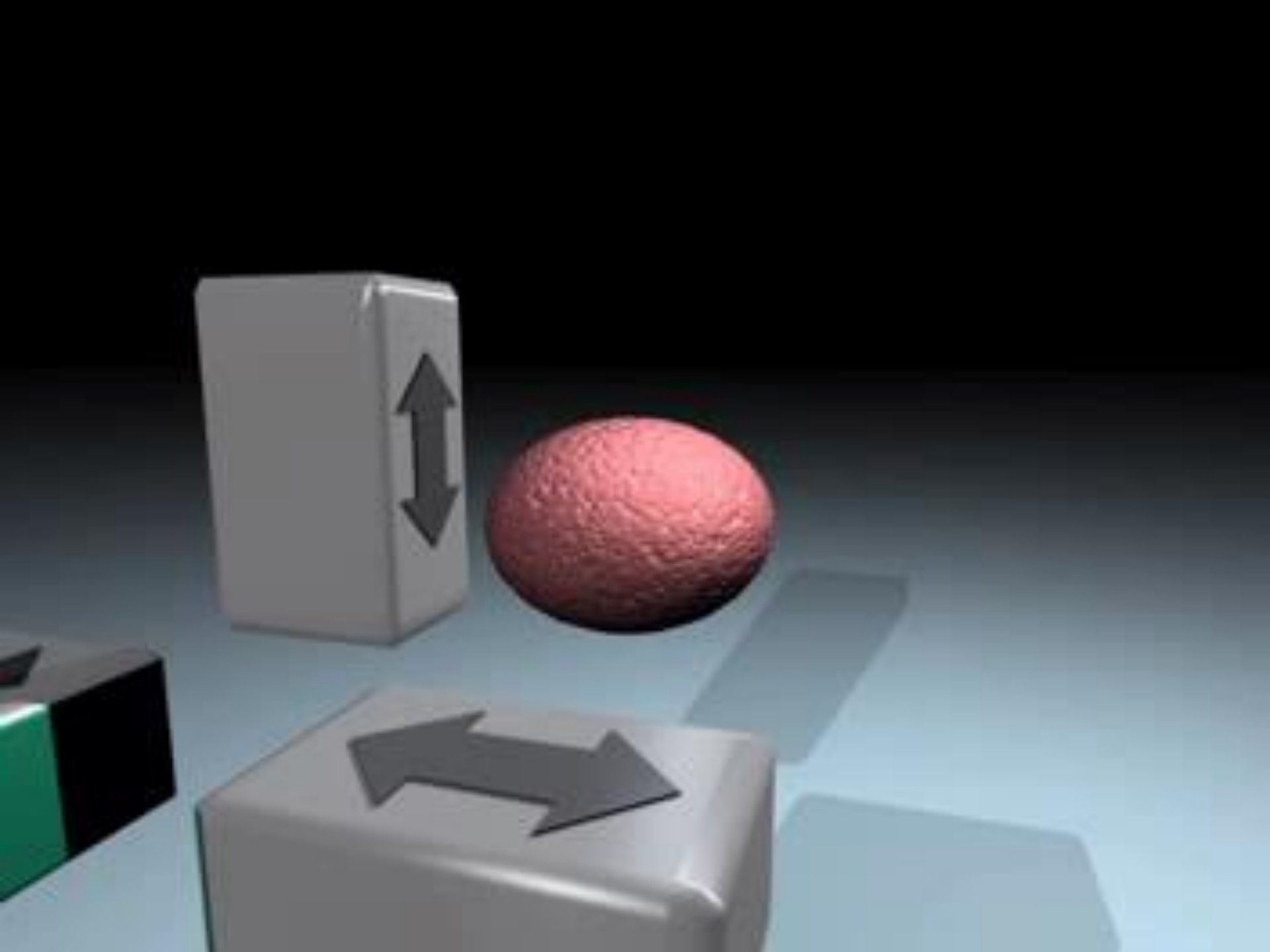
Real time, high accuracy (spatial resolution  $<1\text{ mm}$ )

- Beam energy: 220 MeV/u
- Target: 5x5x20 cm<sup>2</sup> PMMA

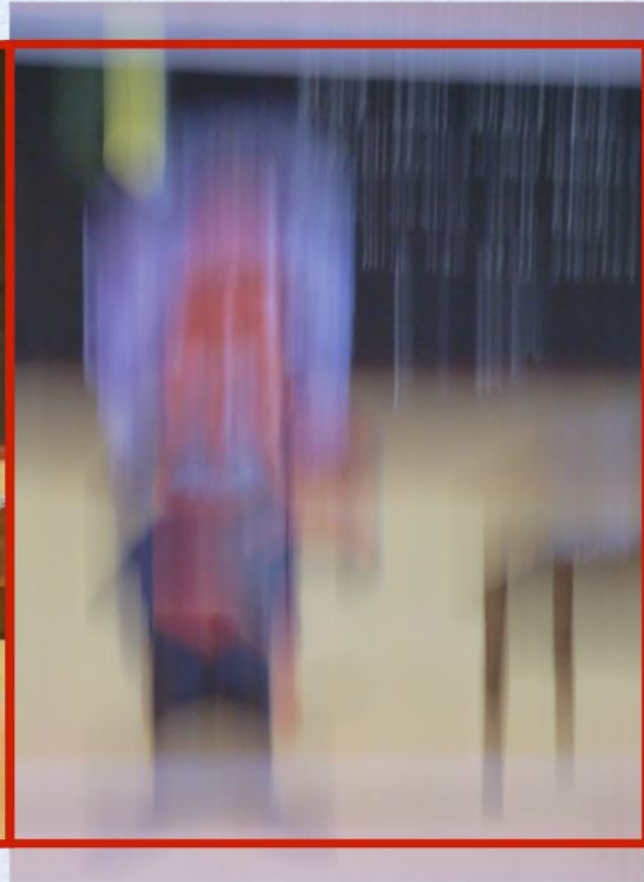
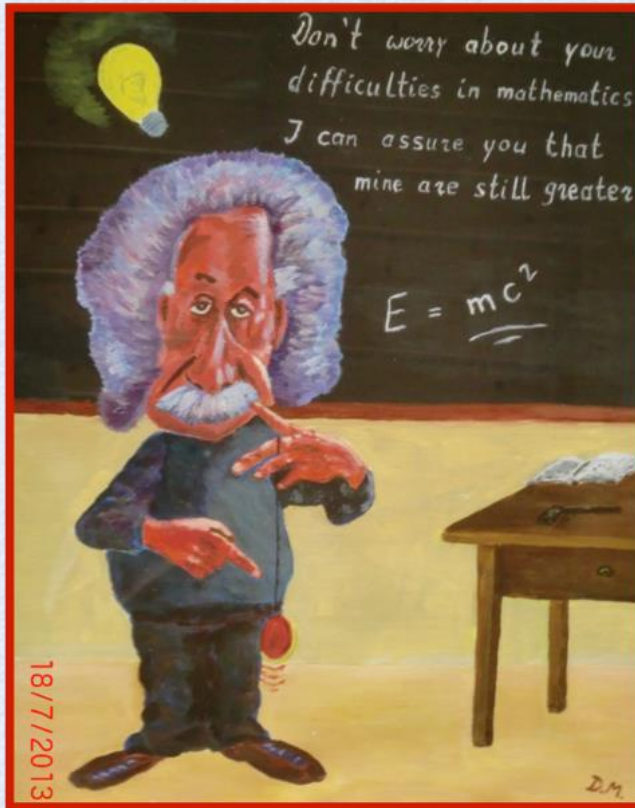


## Detectors:

1. CMOS and plastic scintillator (START) for beam monitoring
2. Plastic scintillator (VETO) and crystals (LYSO and BaF) for  $\Delta E$ -E and TOF measurements
3. Gas chamber and CMOS for particle tracking



# Moving targets: why is motion bad in particle therapy?



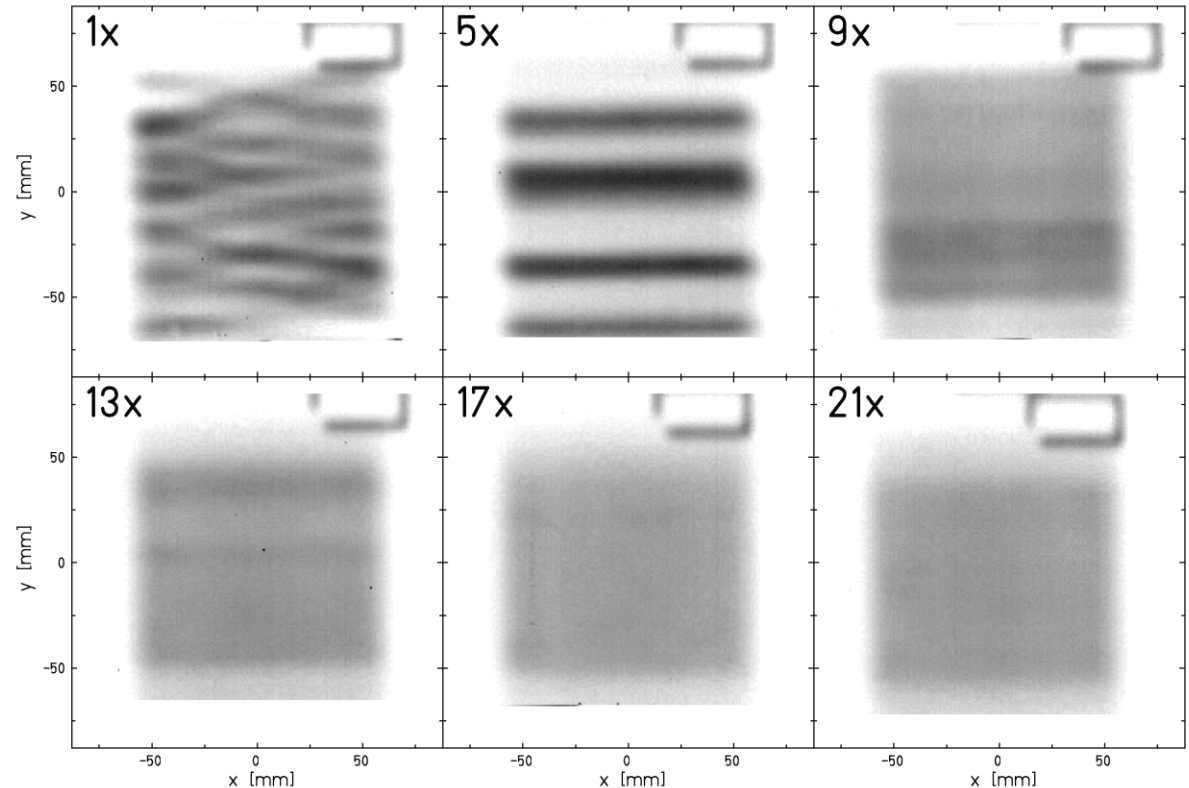
Even brilliant Einstein loses brilliance!

# Motion mitigation techniques

- **Rescanning:** N irradiations with  $1/N$  dose

- **Gating**

- **Tracking**



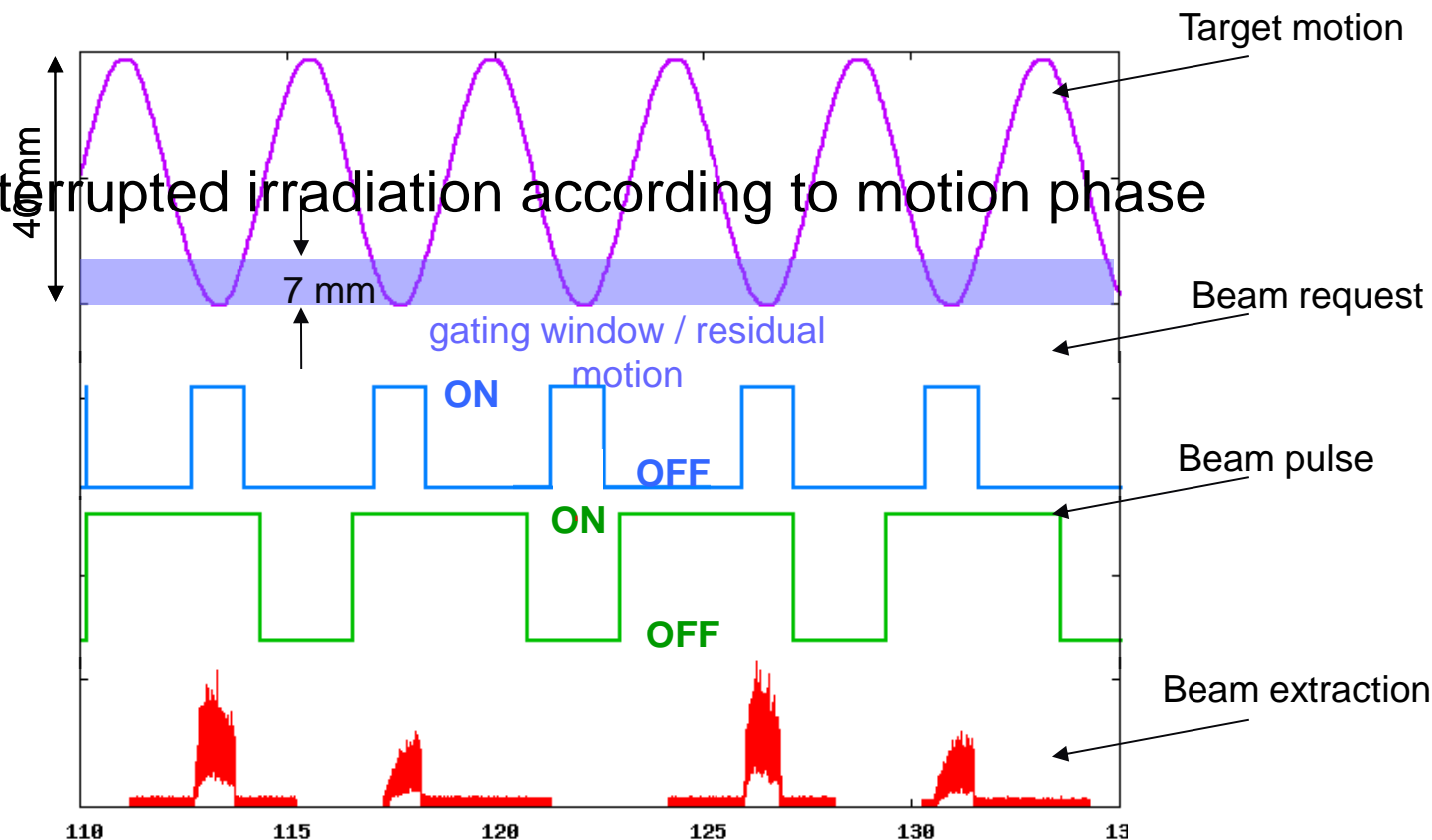


# Motion mitigation techniques

- **Rescanning:** N irradiations with  $1/N$  dose

- **Gating:** interrupted irradiation according to motion phase

- **Tracking**



# Motion mitigation techniques

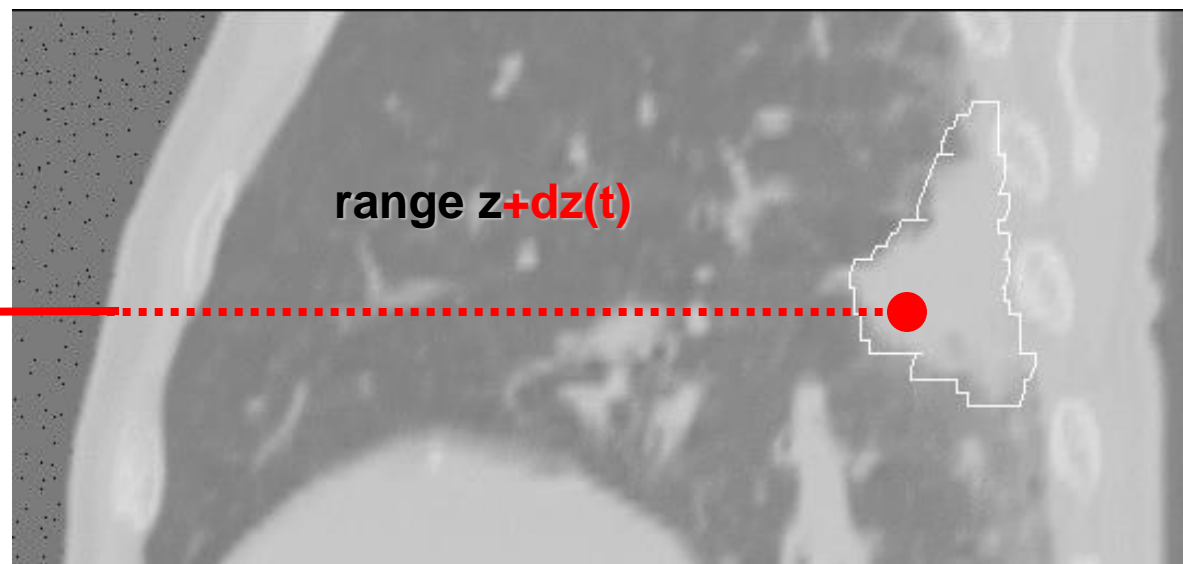
- **Rescanning:** N irradiations with  $1/N$  dose
- **Gating:** interrupted irradiation according to motion phase

- **Tracking**

lateral beam  
position

$x+dx(t)$

$y+dy(t)$



# Range uncertainties: tumor tracking in particle therapy

## Treatment planning

- 4D CT

## Motion detection

- X-ray stereo projections
- External surrogates combined with adaptive correlation models
- Soft-tissue imaging (ultrasound, MRI)
- Particle radiography

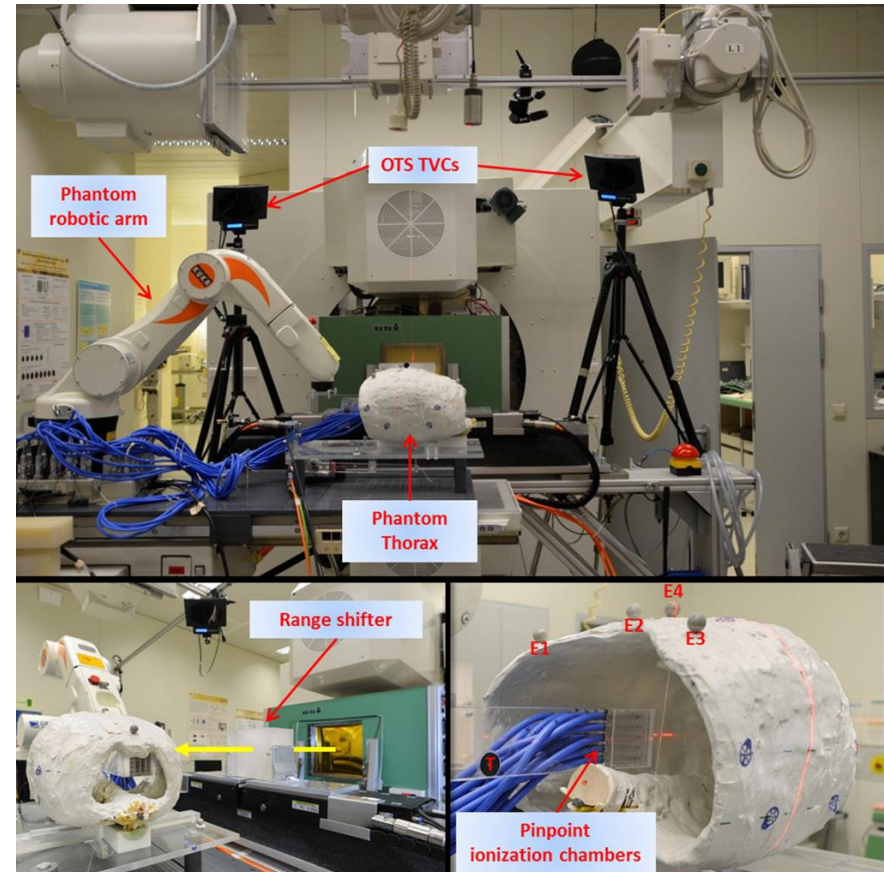
## Motion tracking

- Lateral compensation (magnet steering)
- Depth compensation (moving degrader vs static degrader)

## Treatment verification

- Off-line PET dosimetry
- In-beam PET dosimetry
- Prompt radiation measurement

## External-internal correlation model



Riboldi *et al.*, *Lancet Oncol.* 2012

Seregni *et al.*, *Phys. Med. Biol.* 2013

## 2. Cost/benefit ratio: new clinical indications

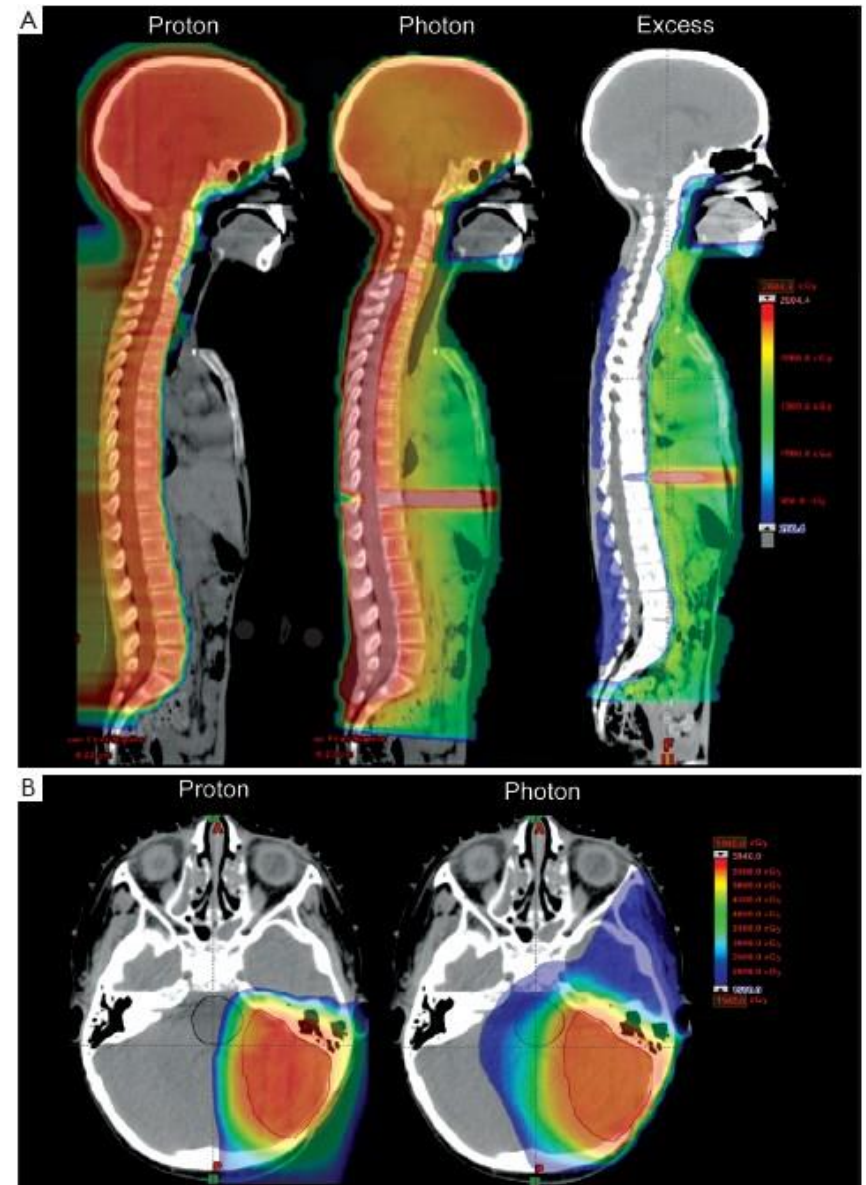
### Established clinical indications

- Skull base and spine tumors
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Eye tumors
- Pediatric tumors

### More research needed for

- Thoracic malignancies
- Head and Neck tumors
- Pelvic and abdominal sites

ASTRO Model Policy, May 2014



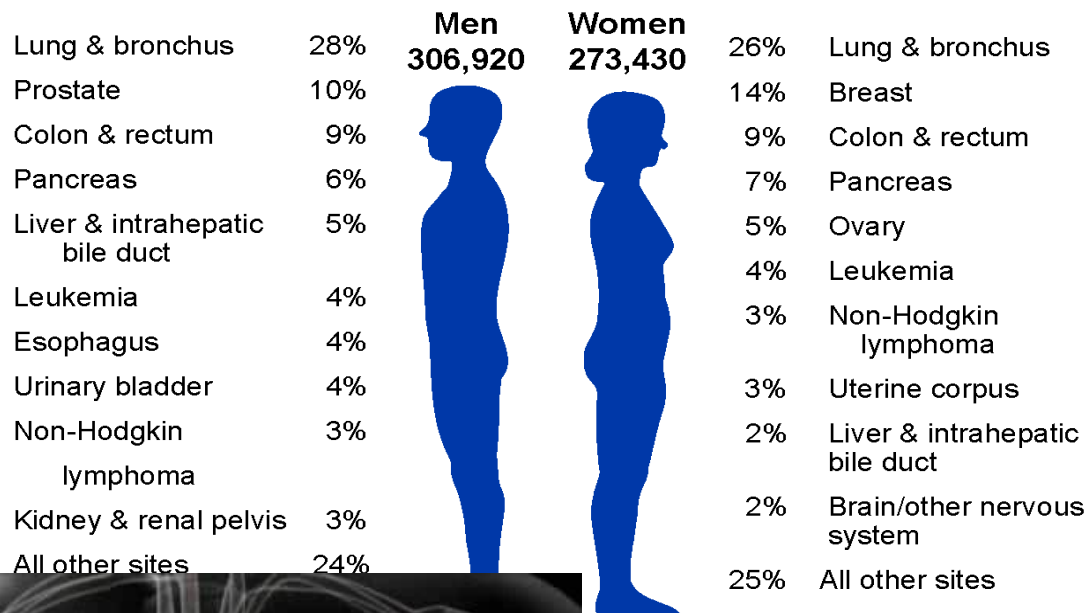
Medulloblastoma treatment, MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA



# New diseases where charged particles may potentially lead to a breakthrough

- Lung
- Pancreas
- Local recurrence of rectal cancer
- Breast
- Glioblastoma

Estimated Cancer Deaths in the US in 2013

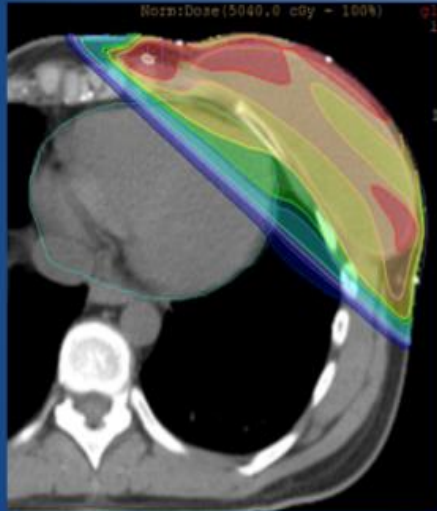


Siegel *et al.*,  
CA Cancer J Clin 2013

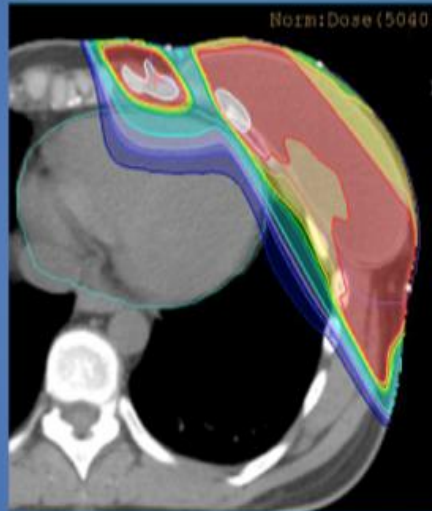
Noncancer diseases

# Treatment plans with protons: breast

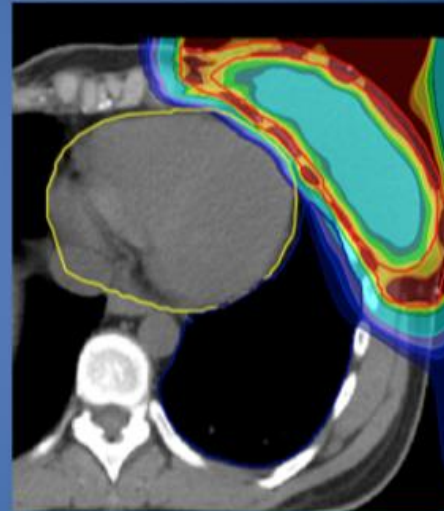
## Protons with implants



Photons



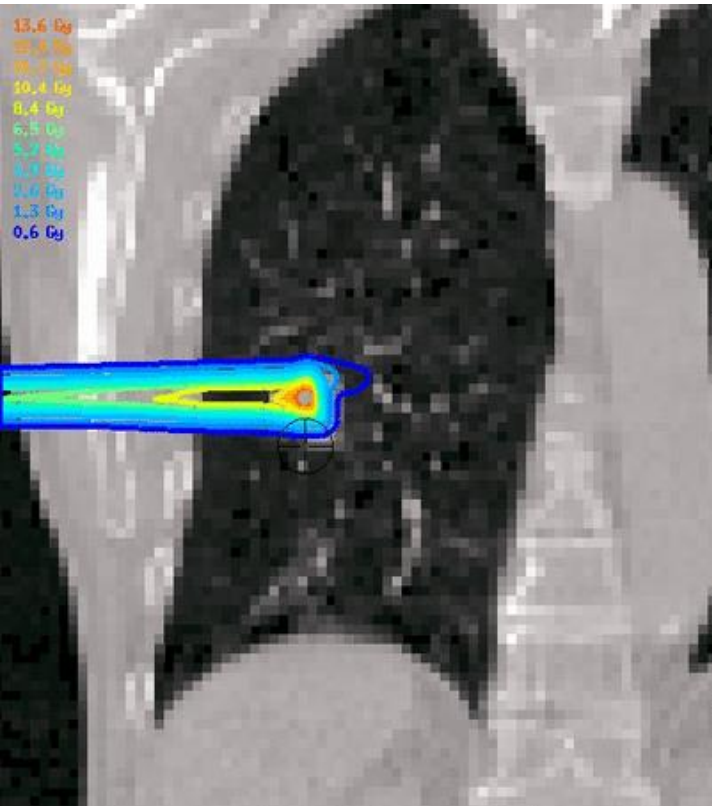
Photon/Electron



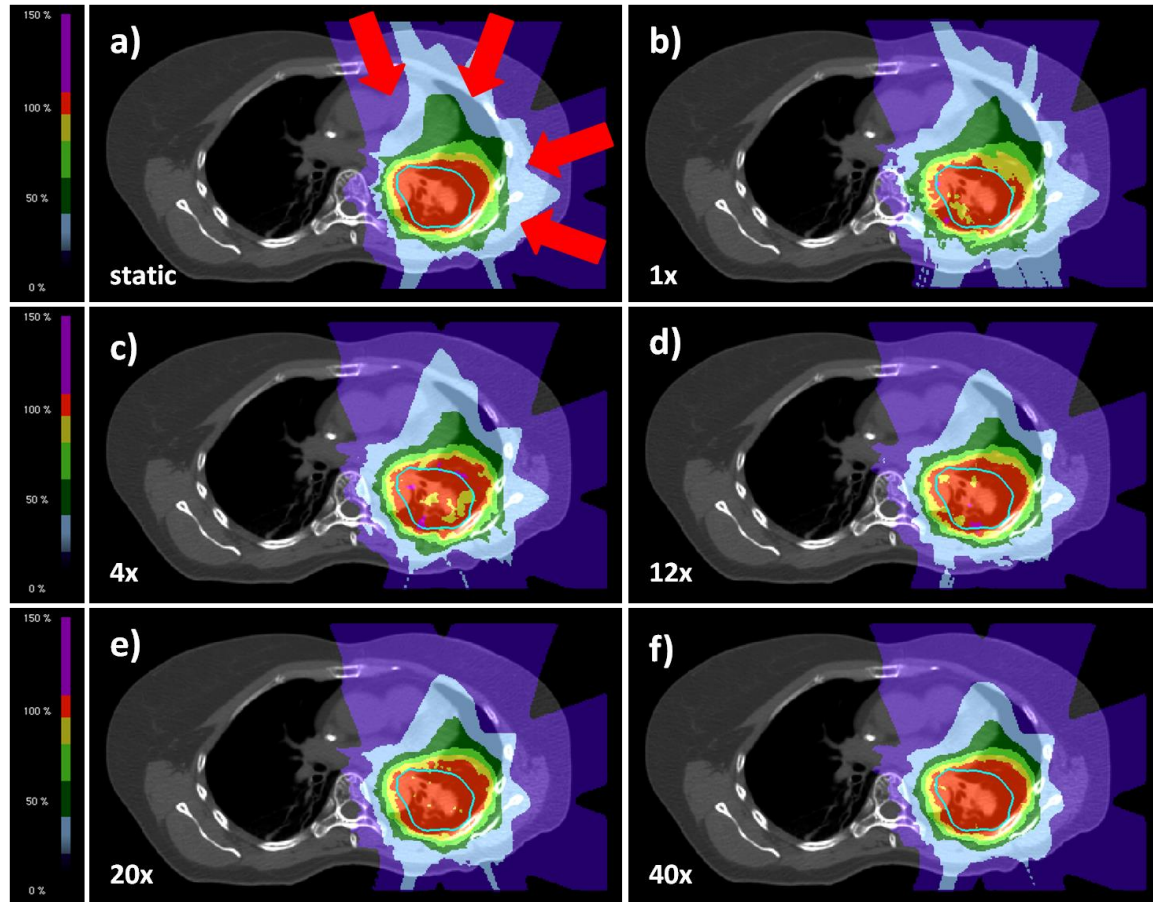
Proton(IMPT)



# Lung cancer: 2<sup>nd</sup> in incidence and 1<sup>st</sup> in mortality for both sexes in US



Courtesy of M. Söhn, LMU



Graeff et al., *Radiother. Oncol.* 2013



# Particle therapy for atrial fibrillation

## Cardiac arrhythmias

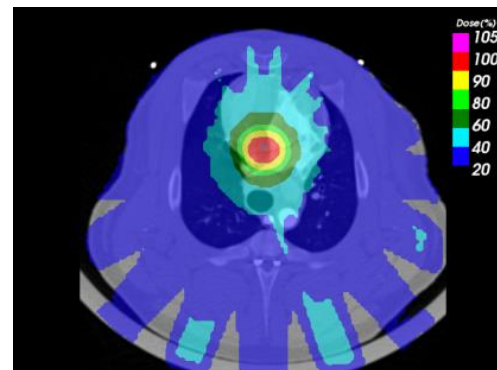
Affects about 5% of the middle-aged population and is associated with high risk of stroke and infarct

## Treatment

- Patients unresponsive to drugs undergo catheter ablation – very invasive, limited success
- Pre-clinical SBRT (CyberHeart, CA)

## Current trial with C-ions

- First experiment in July 2013 with a pig Langedorff at HIT (Heidelberg)
- Twenty swines irradiated at GSI in July 2014

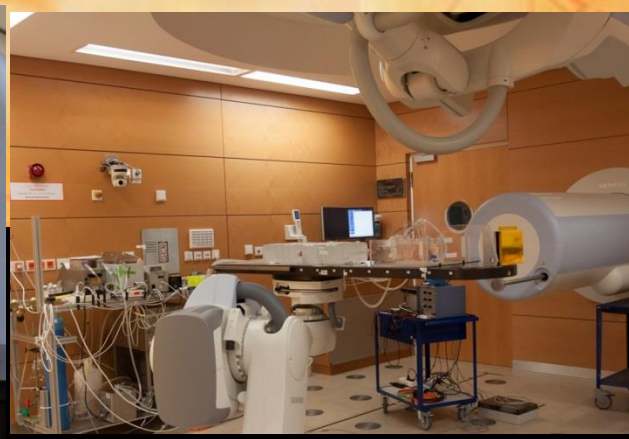
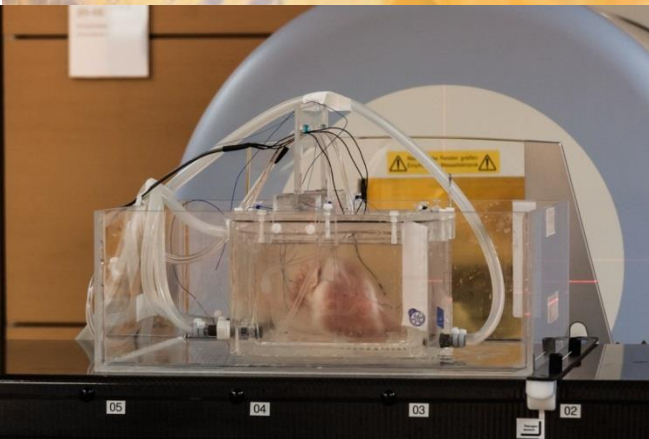


Treatment plan,  
X-rays



Treatment plan,  
C-ions

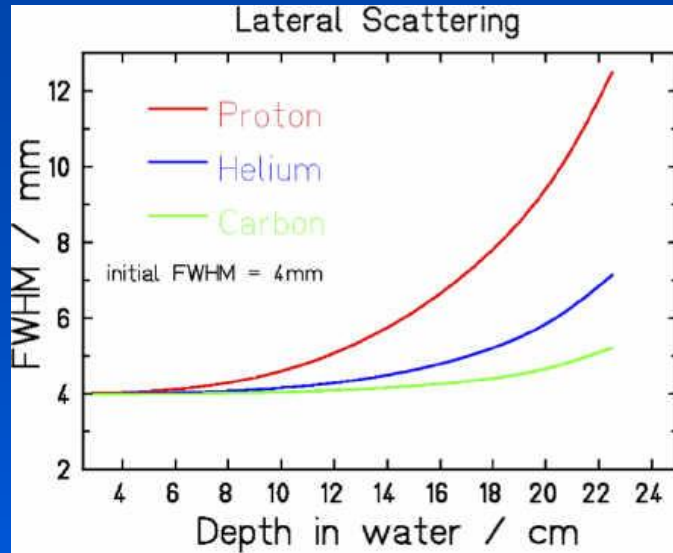




Langendorff, July  
2013



# 4. Other Ions: Helium and Oxygen

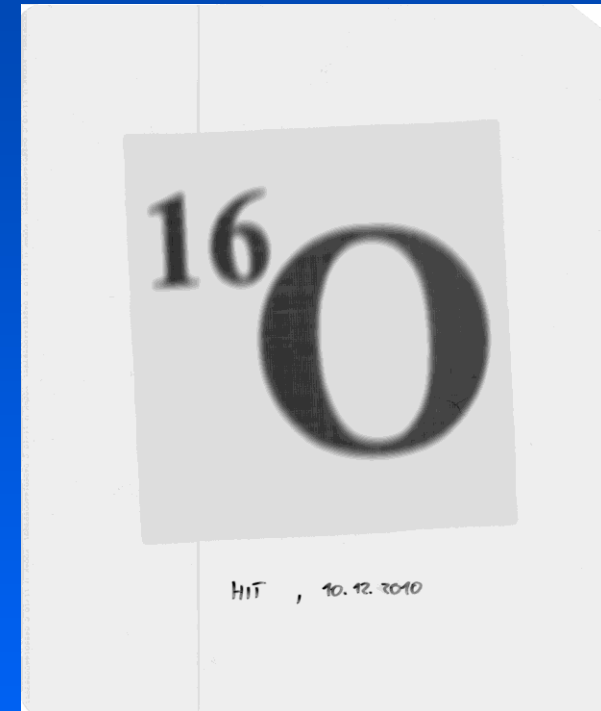


Penumbra comparison  
(90% => 10%):

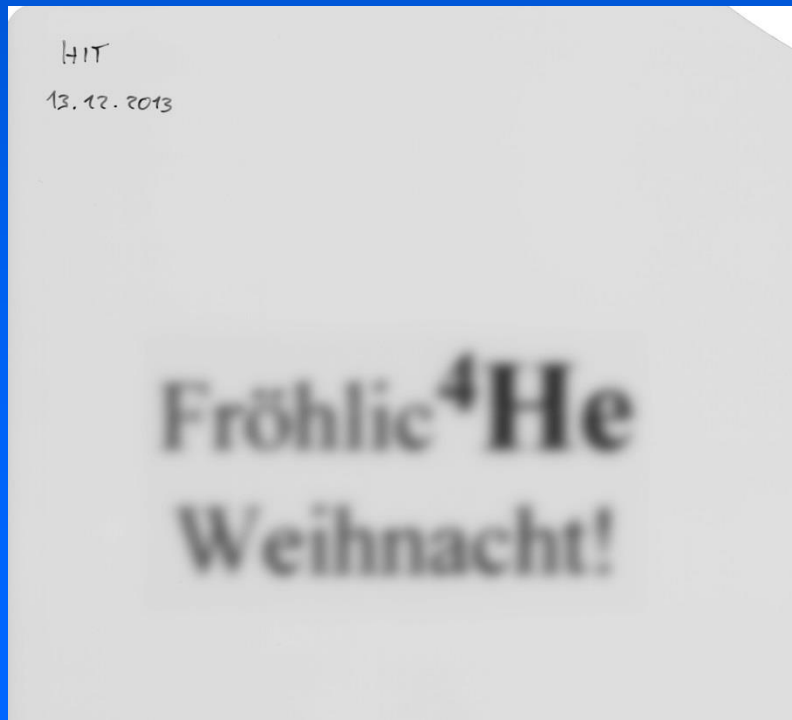
Protons: 17,4 mm

Helium4: 10,9 mm

Carbon: 7,4 mm



Rasterscan @ HIT-  
R+D-Cave

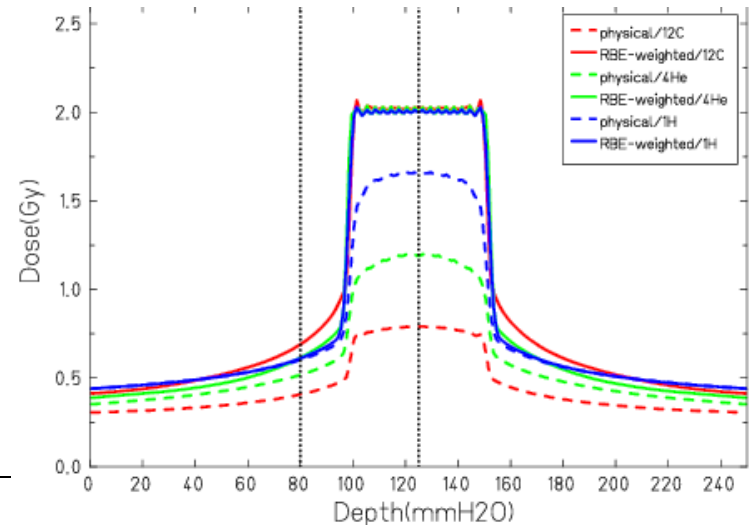
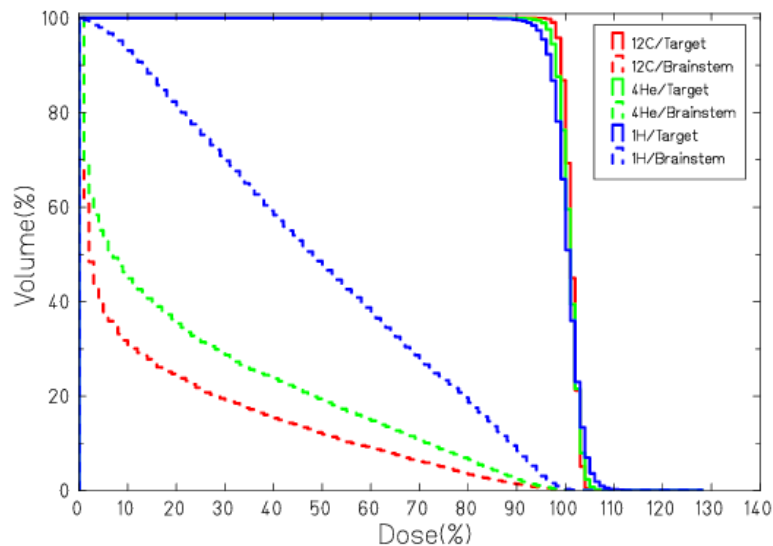
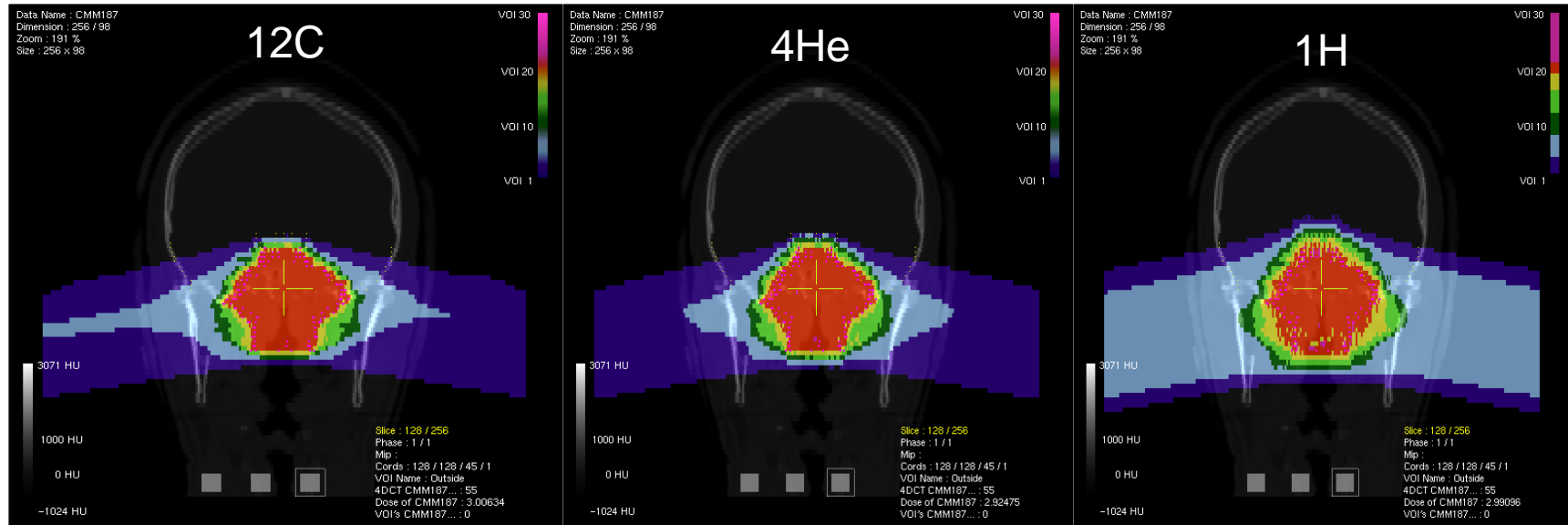


Courtesy of Thomas  
Haberer, HIT

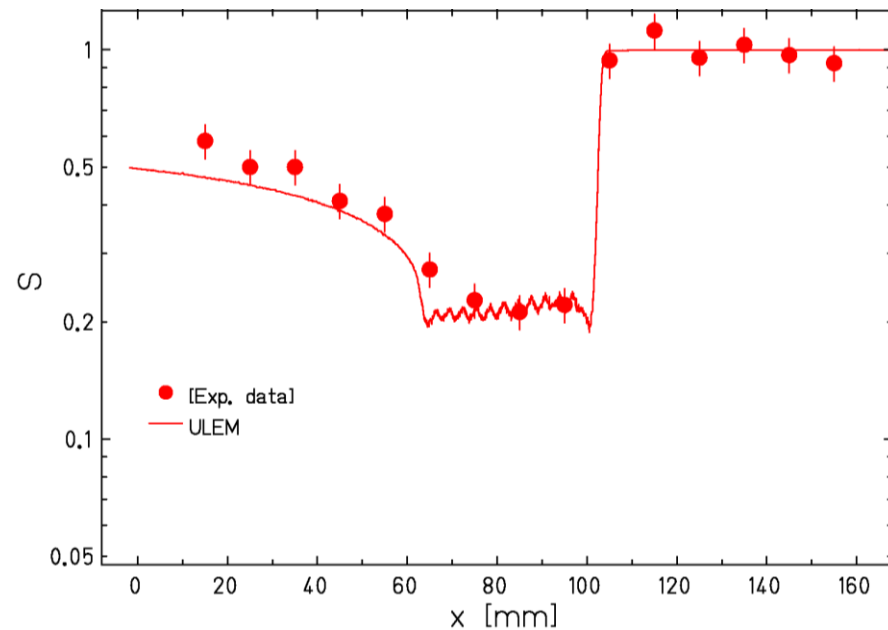
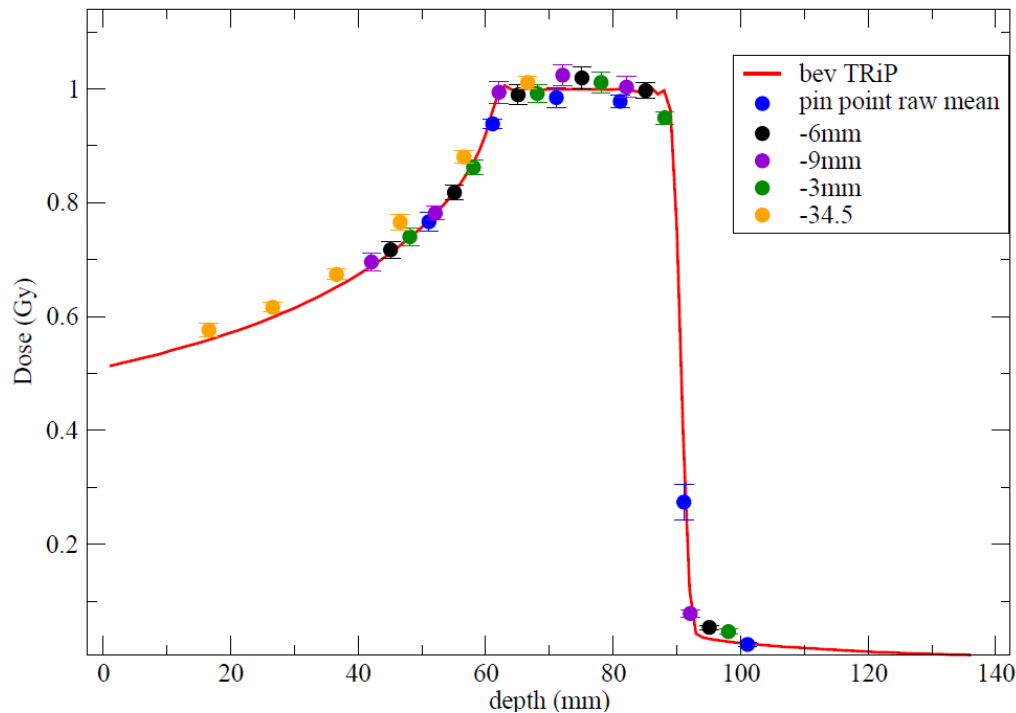
# Helium TP simulation

## Skull base chordoma, $\alpha/\beta=2$ Gy

Grün et al., GSI Rep. 2014



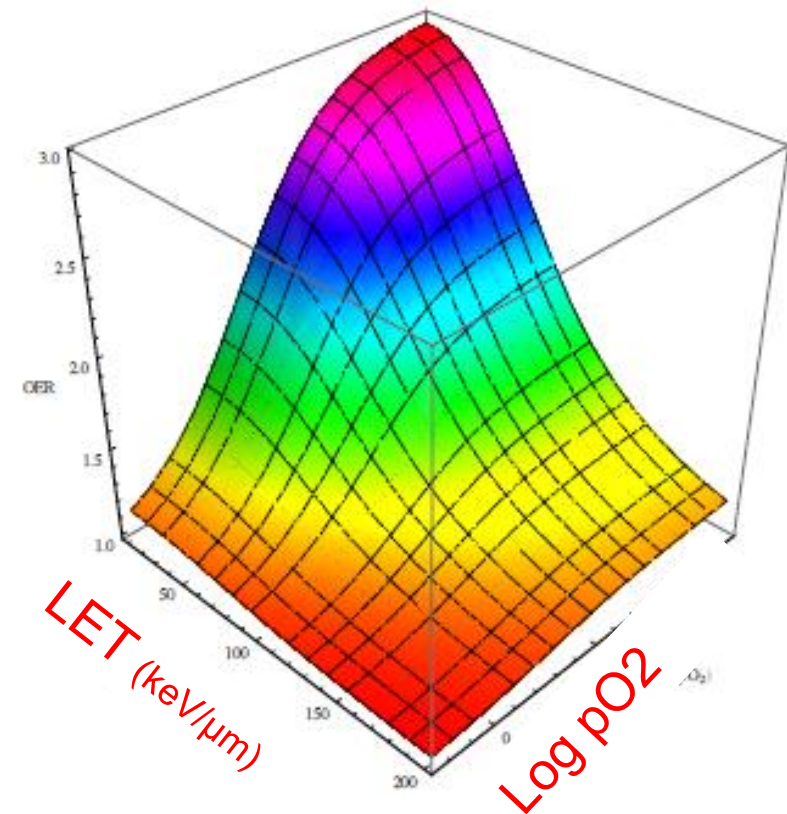
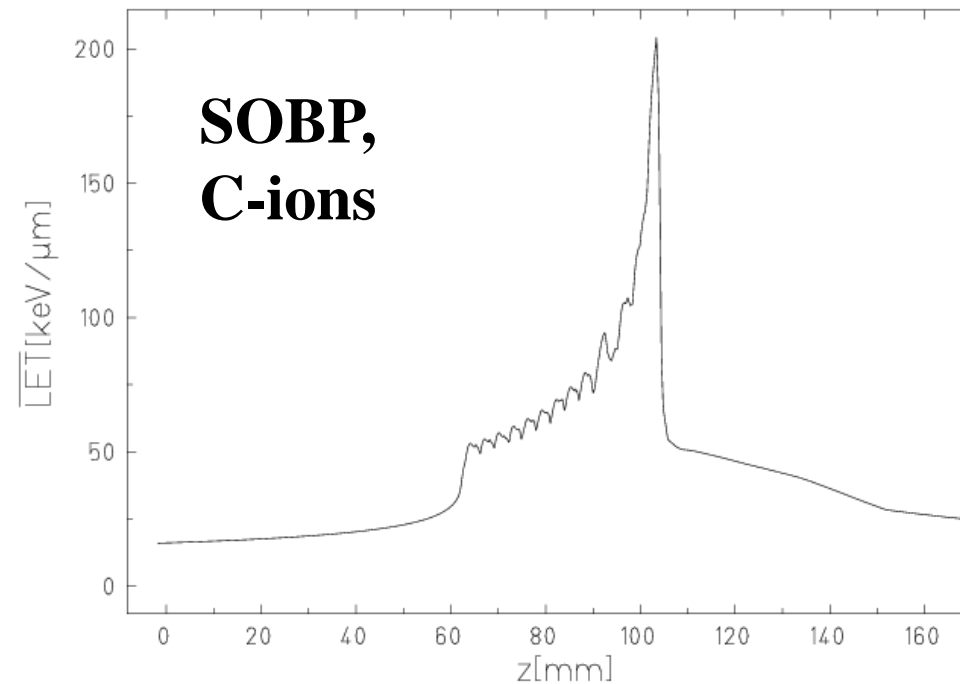
# Helium: pre-clinical experimental studies



SOBP, He-ions  
Krämer *et al.*, GSI  
Report 2014

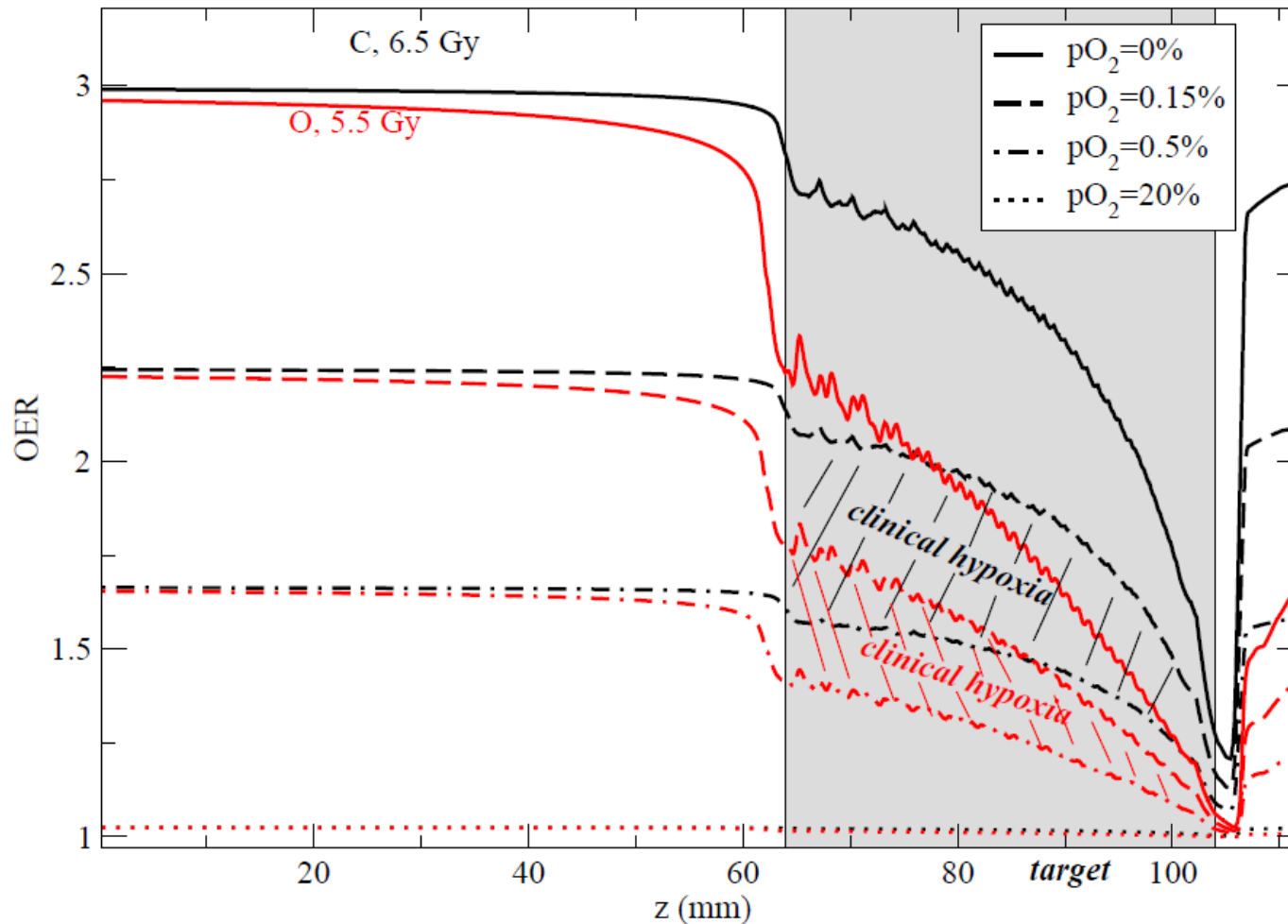


# OER( $pO_2$ , LET) model for adaptive particle treatment planning



Scifoni *et al.*, *Phys. Med. Biol.* 2013

# New ions: oxygen



- C, O, p and soon He available @HIT
- Joining OER driven and Multiion modality in next TRiP release

Krämer et al., J. Phys. Chem. Solids 2013

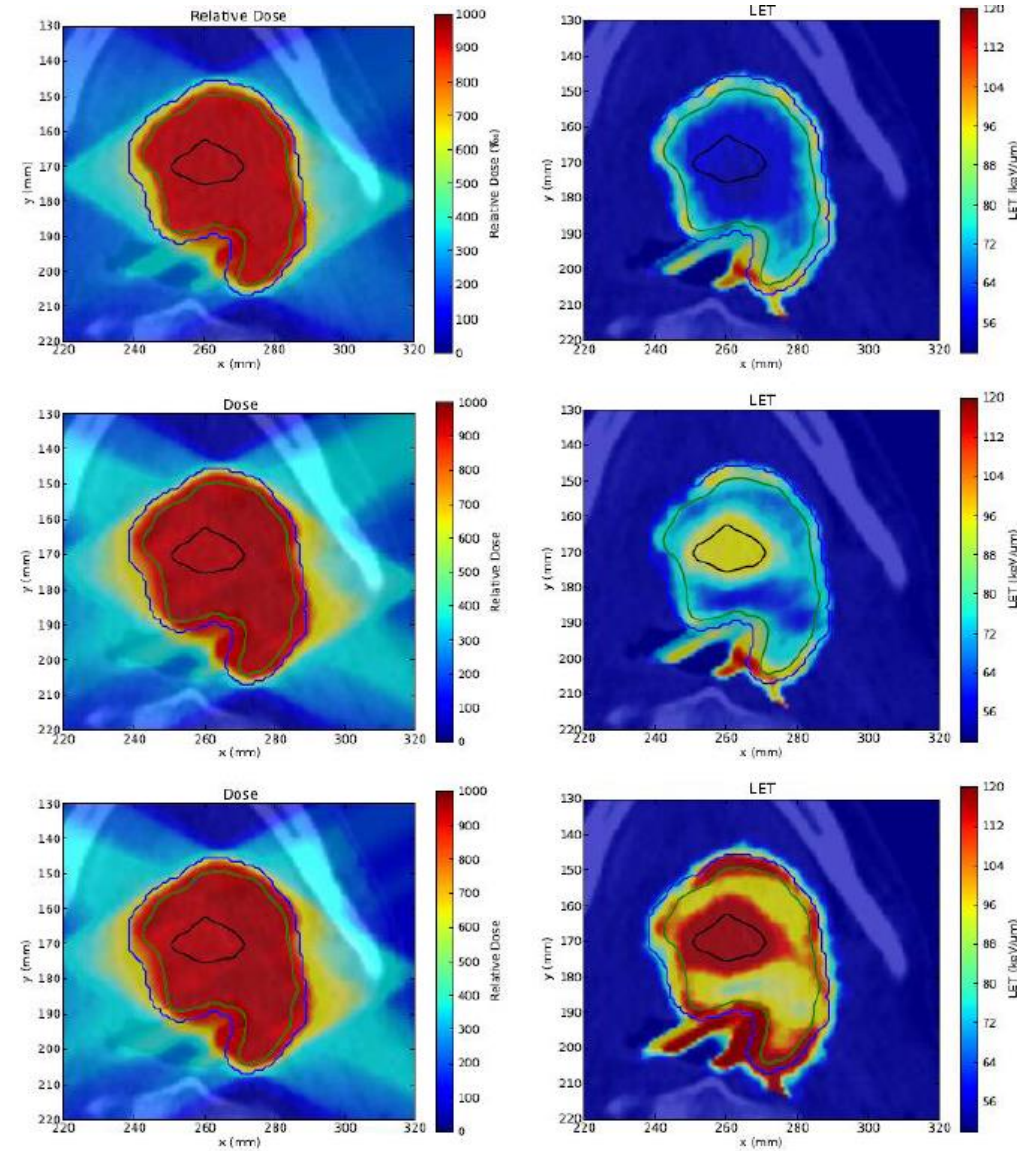
# LET painting

Bassler *et al.*, *Acta Oncol.* 2013

4 flat fields C-ions

4 ramped fields C-ions

4 ramped fields O-ions



# Conclusions

- The future of particle therapy strongly depends on improvements in medical physics
- Reduction of range uncertainty is mandatory and strategies beyond fiducial markers and gating/rescanning should be found (tracking, online monitoring, proton radiography)
- Beam deliver technologies (including 4D/5D optimization) to broaden the diseases elected to be treated with particles is very important to reduce the cost/benefit ratio of the facility
- New ions can be use for pediatrics ( $^4\text{He}$ ) or very hypoxic tumors in single-fractions ( $^{16}\text{O}$ ) but require preliminary nuclear physics measurements (attenuation, fragmentation)
- BNL would be the ideal facility for this research, urgently needed in US in relation to the NCI P20 now ready to start





## Biophysics Department

**M. Durante (Director)**  
**G. Kraft (Helmholtz Professor)**  
**G. Taucher-Scholz (DNA damage)**  
**S. Ritter (Stem cells)**  
**C. Fournier (Late effects)**  
**W. Kraft-Weyrather (Clinical radiobiology)**  
**M. Scholz (Biophysical modelling)**  
**M. Krämer (Treatment planning)**  
**C. Bert (Moving targets)**  
**C. La Tessa (Dosimetry)**

**Thank you very much!**

<http://www.gsi.de/biophysik/>